

Approved

**Town of Brentwood
Budget Committee**
Minutes of January 13, 2014

Present: Elyse Seeley (Chair), Bill Faria, John Lyon, Bob Mantegari, Dianne Vosgien, (School Board Representative), Jeff Bryan (Selectmen Rep), Malcolm Allison, Krista Steger

Visitors: Ken Christiansen, Melissa Litchfield, Patrick Garvey, Melissa Hanlon, Amy Brown, Hallie Garvey, Kevin Lemoine, Wayne Robinson

Chairperson Elyse Seeley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. Motion to approve draft minutes from December 9, 2013. Malcolm/Bob, Approved, 8-0.
2. Krista will be unable to attend meeting Jan 20- arrangements made for calling in. Jeff will be unable to attend Jan 27 meeting. Excused by Chair.
3. BudCom terms for Bob Mantegari and Krista Steger are up. Filing period is Jan 22-31.

BUDGETS:

1. **Financial, Tax & Assessing – Assessing – 4150-07**, – Motion to reopen, Bob/Malcolm (8-0, to reopen). Discussed an increase of \$46,500.00 over what previously approved. The Selectmen recommend this amount, as ½ of \$ needed for the 100% state required town assessment in 2015 (Total: \$93K). Although this is not required until 2015, the board felt it was prudent to plan and not request the full amount in the 2015 budget. This budget is up 152%. Motion to approve, in the amount of \$78,776.00 (total budget), approved, 6-2.

TOWN WARRANT ARTICLES:

1. **New Outlook – 4900-70-340**, – Motion to approve, in the amount of \$1,000.00, Jeff/Diane. This is the same amount as last year, Approved, 8-0.
2. **Capital Reserve Building Repairs – 4915 -70-829**, - Motion to approve, in the amount of \$50,000.00, Jeff/Diane. This is the same as last year for town buildings repairs and maintenance, Approved, 8-0.
3. **Mosquito Control – 4900-70-830**, - Motion to approve, in the amount of \$30,500.00, Jeff/Diane, if approved, this warrant will be included in the general operating budget in 2015. Approved, in amount of \$30,500.00, 8-0.
4. **Road Repairs – 4900-70-829** – Motion to approve in the amount of \$250,000.00, Jeff/Diane, This is the same amount as last year, approved, 8-0.
5. **Highway Addition – 4915-70-824** – Motion to approve in the amount of \$50,000.00, Jeff/Diane, This will be added to the existing CR for both the highway building expansion and the required salt storage area.(State has relaxed the required date from 2015 to unknown) Approved, 8-0.
6. **Highway Lease Purchase – 4900-70-842** – Motion to approve in the amount of \$18,524.00, Jeff/Diane, this is the second year of the lease agreement for the highway backhoe. This

agreement has an escape clause if appropriations are not approved in future years, Approved, 8-0.

7. **Highway Vehicles – 4915-70-821** – Motion to approve in the amount of \$31,477.00
Jeff/Diane, this money is to be added to the existing CR for replacement and repair of highway vehicles. Probably a new plow truck will be needed, and this will cover the additional amount needed from the existing CR, Approved, 8-0.
8. **Bridge Repairs – 4915-70-820** - Motion to approve in the amount of \$75,000.00, Jeff/Diane, This money will be added to the existing CR for bridge repairs. It is likely the entire CR will be used to repair the Crawley Falls bridge, and it was noted that the Mill Road Bridge was just added in the last week to the state Red List which will require additional funding in the future, Approved, 5-3.
9. **Fire Department/Emergency Vehicles – 4915-70-822** – Motion to approve in the amount of \$50,000.00, to be added to a CR (approximately \$106-108,000.00) for replacement of Fire/Emergency vehicles. Last year was not included, but has been in prior years to build the CR. Approved 8-0.
10. **Long Term Lease Agreement for new Fire Engine** (Quint style fire apparatus) – new warrant article. Motion to approve the lease not to exceed \$610,000.00, Jeff/Diane. This agreement is to lease/purchase a new ladder/pumper fire vehicle. There was a great deal of discussion on the merit of the agreement (down payment would be forfeited if escape clause is invoked) and it would require 5 annual payments of \$99,291.00 at a 2.62% interest rate. Questions on the relevance and need for this equipment. There are additional requirements for bonds that exceed \$100,000.00. Vote 2-6; NOT approved. (Jeff will return to Selectmen with Budcom concerns, and we may discuss at next meeting).

Police Cruiser – no WA presented– There was discussion of the need for a new police cruiser, The Police Department will need approximately \$36,000.00 for the purchase (with \$3000 of this coming from the existing detail money) of a new police cruiser. This may be a warrant article presented next week if Selectmen approve. .

SCHOOLS:

ERCSD COOP INFO: Elyse reviewed the SAU 16 Cooperative budgets (proposed and default). The tax impact of the two budgets were discussed. Last year the TOTAL COOP increase for Brentwood was .724 / \$1000 valuation.

The Proposed (\$54,385,508.00) includes a large increase for Special Education. It also addresses building maintenance, (and this money will be used to install a/c piecemeal, through existing maintenance at the middle school). Proposed + WA: tax increase of \$.797 cents per \$1000 of assessed value.

The Default budget (\$53,941,272.00) is reduced by budgeted maintenance costs, but includes the large Special Education requirement. With WA, it has a tax impact of \$.659 cents per \$1000.

COOP Warrant Articles 2 and 3 are new contracts for SAU 16 administrators and teachers, Elyse highlighted that the contract increases are not unreasonable (teachers: 2.05%, 1.95%, 1.95%), and the Coop School Board removed three Warrant Articles for additions for the Middle School.

SWASEY SCHOOL: As no formal Swasey School Warrant Articles have been signed, there was discussion on the proposed draft Warrant Articles:

1. Full-day Kindergarten, \$30,000. Discussion and questions regarding cost accuracy. Dianne (per Ron Kew) said costs include an Asst. Teacher and supplies/furnishings. The full-time teacher and benefits required for full-day K are not included in the WA. This teacher is left in the school's OB to handle increased enrollments.
2. The new teacher contract was also discussed and includes 2.3% increases each year for three years (prior was 1%, 1.5%). Close to cost of living increases. Also small increased health benefit premium contributions for the teachers (1%, ½%, ½%). Increase in longevity benefit to \$3900, from \$3300 previously.

There appears to be an opportunity to reduce the budget due to the reduced enrollments, the large fifth grade moving to the middle school. It also appears that the proposed warrant for Full Day Kindergarten does not include the total costs associated with that proposal. There were questions re: the process used to determine 2014 projected K enrollment: only 13 "yes" out of the 52 responders to the K survey. Dianne said the projection for 51 K students is Ron Kew's and the School Board's "guesstimate" of the number who may enroll for kindergarten next year. If the full day WA fails, there is an extra teacher (or two) in the operating budget (19 classroom teachers, for 17½ -18 classrooms).

Dianne will provide formal Warrant Articles next week and address questions about the Kindergarten warrant article cost issue with the School Board for our next meeting. We asked Dianne to revisit the warrant article for kindergarten and propose a cost number associated with the true cost for a full day program for next year, which for three K classrooms projected would require a full-time teacher, an assistant, furnishings and supplies. We came to a consensus that the Budget Committee would like to revisit the Swasey budget and vote on warrant articles at our next meeting.

We also requested Dianne bring copies of the teacher contract.

Motion to reopen the Swasey School operating budget, Bob/Bill. After discussion, a request to table the motion until our next meeting, Approved, to table 6-2.

Public Comment

Melissa Litchfield asked for clarification of the overall cost of the budgets that have been discussed, approved and recommended. There is an estimate only right now of the town: 30 cents/ \$1000 of assessed value, but we will have a better estimate next week of the costs of all the budgets.

9:03 pm Motion to adjourn, Jeff/Krista, approved 8-0

Minutes respectfully submitted by William C Faria